

UNCLASSIFIED

12/4/80

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Case Number: S200000044

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7703

SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 9421

DECAPTIONED

12065: GDS 12/3/86 (SHLAUDEMAN, HARRY W.) OR-M
S: SHUM, AR
JECT: AUGUST 1979 DISAPPEARED: FURTHER INFORMATION

: (A) BUENOS AIRES 1885; (B) B.A. 1795; (C) B.A. 1373;
B.A. 1273; (E) B.A. 1185

- ENTIRE TEXT.

AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, FIVE PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED
AUGUST, 1979 BEGAN COMMUNICATING WITH, AND IN THREE CASES,
ALLY VISITING THEIR FAMILIES, BEGINNING IN DECEMBER, 1979.
BRUARY, 1980 THE VISITS AND THEN THE COMMUNICATIONS WERE
RUPTED AND HAVE NOT RESUMED. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE
NFORMATION DEVELOPED FROM ONE SOURCE IN THE ARMY SECURITY
E, WE CONCLUDED AT THE TIME THAT THE FIVE WERE PROBABLY
BY THEIR CAPTORS, AN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION IN THE
NE ARMY.

OF WHAT WE KNEW ABOUT THAT INCIDENT CAME FROM THE
OF ONE OF THE COMMUNICATING DISAPPEARED WHO CONTACTED
SSY AFTER THEIR SON, FERNANDO BRODSKY, BROKE OFF
ATION. HOWEVER, NOW RAQUEL HASSAN, THE MOTHER
ER OF THE LAST AUGUST'S COMMUNICATING DISAPPEARED, HAS
HER EXPERIENCE TO THE EMBASSY.

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SAN SAID THAT:

S: [REDACTED]

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
() Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to
Date ☐ Declassify on Reason

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HER SON, JOSE, FIRST BEGAN CALLING HOM ON DECEMBER 24. THEY
TOKE REGULARLY BY PHONE EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTER THAT UNTIL
FEBRUARY 2, HE ACTUALLY VISITED HER HOME.

HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, JOSEFINA VILLAFLO DE HASSAN, WHO WAS
SO ARRESTED LAST AUGUST, BEGAN PHONING THE VILLAFLO HOME
LATE DECEMBER AND MADE HER FIRST VISIT THERE JANUARY 20.

THAT TIME SHE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ELSA MARTINEZ
VILLAFLO, ANOTHER OF THOSE ARRESTED IN AUGUST.
WE REPORTED EARLIER, THE TWO WOMEN WERE ALLOWED TO
SIT WITH THEIR CHILDREN FOR WHOM THEY BROUGHT SMALL
PRESENTS THAT THEY HAD MADE IN THEIR PLACE OF
DETENTION. MRS. HASSAN VISITED WITH THE WOMEN AT THE
VILLAFLO HOME.

JOSE HASSAN, ELSA MARTINEZ DE VILLAFLO AND JOSEFINA
VILLAFLO DE HASSAN ALL WERE IN GOOD HEALTH DURING THESE
VISITS. THEY SAID THEY WERE WORKING IN OFFICES, WERE
WELL TREATED, AND LIVING IN A "RE-EDUCATION CENTER."
THEY HAD NO IDEA WHERE THEY WERE BEING HELD AS THEY WERE
UNFOLDED ON TRIPS TO AND FROM THE DETENTION CENTER.
THEY SAID THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEIR DETENTION THEY
WERE BADLY TORTURED.

THE DETAINEES WERE TREATED AS "TRUSTEES" - ON ONE
VISIT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE TWO WOMEN WERE DROPPED OFF TWO
BLOCKS FROM THEIR HOME AND ALLOWED TO WALK THE REST OF
THE DISTANCE.

THE YOUNG MAN WHO ACCOMPANIED JOSE HASSAN ON HIS
JANUARY 2 VISIT WAS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, VERY RELAXED
AND QUITE FRIENDLY. HE TOLD MRS. HASSAN THAT HER SON
WAS EXTREMELY LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER
OF A CELL OF THE PERONIST ARMED FORCES (FAP - A TERRORIST
ORGANIZATION THAT NO LONGER EXISTS). MRS. HASSAN SAID

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SO, SHE WAS SURE THAT HE HAD NOT PARTICIPATED
IN TERRORIST ACTS. THE YOUNG MAN SAID THAT MIGHT BE
BUT "UNTIL RECENTLY" SIMPLE MEMBERSHIP IN AN
ORGANIZATION LIKE FAP MEANT DEATH IF CAUGHT BY THE AUTHORITIES.
HOWEVER, THE FAMILY COULD LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING THEIR
SON BACK ONCE HE HAD COMPLETED HIS RE-EDUCATION, A PROCESS THAT
WAS SHORTER THAN A JAIL SENTENCE. (AS REFTELS INDICATE, WE
DID BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNICATING DISAPPEARED
AND SEVERAL OTHERS PICKED UP AT THE SAME TIME
FROM MEMBERS OF A FAP CELL WHICH HAD BECOME DORMANT.)

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7704

[REDACTED] SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 9421

HER SON'S LAST PHONE CALL TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 16
WHEN HE CALLED TO WISH HIS FATHER HAPPY BIRTHDAY. (ON
FEBRUARY 8 HE HAD CALLED TO SAY THAT THE VISITS HOME
WOULD BE SUSPENDED FOR A WHILE). THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
TOOK OFF COMMUNICATION AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

MRS. HASSAN SAID THAT HER FAMILY HAS NEVER SOUGHT
FOR OUTSIDE HELP. SHE AND HER HUSBAND TRIED PRIVATELY
AND UNSUCCESSFULLY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR SON'S FATE.
HER HUSBAND DIED FOUR MONTHS AGO "OF A BROKEN HEART"
AND SHE COULD NO LONGER GO ON BY HERSELF WITH THIS
GRIEF. THUS, SHE HAD SPOKEN NOT ONLY WITH THIS
EMBASSY, BUT ALSO WITH THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL AND WITH
RABBI MARSHALL MEYER, AN AMERICAN RESIDENT IN BUENOS AIRES.

MRS. HASSAN ASKED THAT WE TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT
HAPPENED TO HER SON. WE TOLD HER THAT ON THE BASIS OF
WHAT WE KNEW ABOUT THIS AND SIMILAR CASES
THERE WAS NO REASON TO ENCOURAGE HER TO BELIEVE THAT
HE WAS STILL ALIVE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO POSITIVE
PROOF THAT HE IS DEAD -- SUCH PROOF IS NOT AVAILABLE.
MRS. HASSAN SAID THAT OTHERS, INCLUDING RABBI MARSHALL
MEYER, SAID AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE WHO DIS-
APPEARED WITH HER SON IN AUGUST, AND HAS NOW REAPPEARED,
WOULD BELIEVE THAT THIS GROUP IS STILL ALIVE. WE TOLD

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WE WOULD AGAIN RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE GOA.

REFTELS CONTAIN FURTHER BACKGROUND ON THIS MATTER.
AUDEMAN
[REDACTED]

SS: [REDACTED]

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